

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 035320

O R 230900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6783

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

BJUQMRA/BXEMBASSY JIDDA 1131

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3149

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF SENATE LETTER AND UNDOF EXTENSION

1. SENATE LETTER AND UNDOF EXTENSION DOMINATE POLITICAL
SCENE HERE AT WEEK'S END. SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF UNDOF WILL
REINFORCE ISRAELI CONVICTION THAT PREDICTIONS BY ADMINISTRATION
SPOKESMEN RE IMMINENCE OF WAR IN ABSENCE DRAMATIC MOVEMENTS
(I.E., ISRAELI CONCESSIONS) TOWARDS PEACE ARE MERELY PLOYS
TO TRY PRESSURE GOI.

2. SENATE LETTER (BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN ISRAELI
EYES) HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE WITH GREAT JOY. PRELIMINARY
REACTIONS CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS EUPHORIC.

3. ISRAELIS HAVE FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN
BOTH ENDS OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SINCE INITIATION OF REASSESSMENT,
WITH CONGRESS CONSIDERED SURROGATE FOR ISRAEL IN POLICY REVIEW.
AS FAR AS PERCEPTION THEIR INTERESTS CONCERNED, VIENNA AND
SALZBURG (AND EVERYTHING ELSE*) ARE SIDESHOWS, IMPORTANT BUT BY NO
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MEANS CRUCIAL. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, SENATE LETTER VWVED AS

MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN MAIN EVENT AFFECTING VITAL INTERESTS.

4. THERE ARE SOME PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS THAT MORE ASTUTE OBSERVERS (SCHWEITZER - HAARETZ) RECOGNIZE THAT LETTER CAN BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORTING BOTH ISRAEL AND CONTINUED MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR GOI POLICY. THIS TOO SUBTLE TO BE WIDELY PERCEIVED HERE AND, FOR MOST PART, ISRAELIS SHARE WITH LEADERSHIP SENSE OF RELIEF AND TRIUMPH. IN THIS RESPECT, AT FRG NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION LAST NIGHT, FORMIN ALLON IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH ME TOOK INITIATIVE TO LAUD "WISDOM OF SENATE," WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT HE EXPRESSED THANKS TO "BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF U.S. " (PRESUMABLY HE WAS MAKING POINT THAT IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, GOI WOULD TAKE PAINS NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION IT CROWING OVER DEVELOPMENT AT ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE). ALRGRSWAS BEAMING ALL OVER AND OBVIOUSLY WAS ENJOYING DISCUSSING WITH THE ASSEMBLED CHIEFS OF MISSION THE NUMBER ONE TOPIC OF THE DAY.

5. WE ZSSUIE THAT EVEN IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE ISRAELI LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT IN CONTEXT THEIR PERCEIVED FIGHT OVER POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH, SENATE LETTER IS NOT CONSIDERED KNOCKOUT PUNCH (TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, FOR EXAMPLE, 76 SENATORS HAVE NOT COMMITTED SELVES TO SUPPORT \$2.5 BILLION AID REQUEST). NEVERTHELESS, THEY UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT PUTS THEM WELL AHEAD ON POINTS IN LATE ROUNDS OF REASSESSMENT. SECRETARY OF DEFENCE'S REMARKS RE POSSIBLE U.S. REACTION TO ARAB OIL EMBARGO ARE ALSO SEEN AS CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION AMOUNTING TO JUBILATION IN SOME QUARTERS.

6. THIS ATTITUDE, RE LETTER, COUPLED WITH UNDOF EXTENSION AND SECDEF'S REMARKS, WILL HAVE EFFECT OF CONFIRMING GOI IN POSTURE OF IMMOBILITY. OTHER SIDE OF COIN IS ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY BELIEVE THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL SERVE TO PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON SADAT "TO BLINK FIRST." UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WILL BE HARD FOR ISRAELIS TO BELIEVE SADAT WILL NOT COME UP WITH IMPORTANT "GESTURE" TO GOI IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD RE REVIVED NEGOTIATIONS ON SECOND PHASE AGREEMENT.
VELIOTES

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